

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN



7

INIO ASANO

PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT
CONTENT

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

7

Story and Art by INIO ASANO

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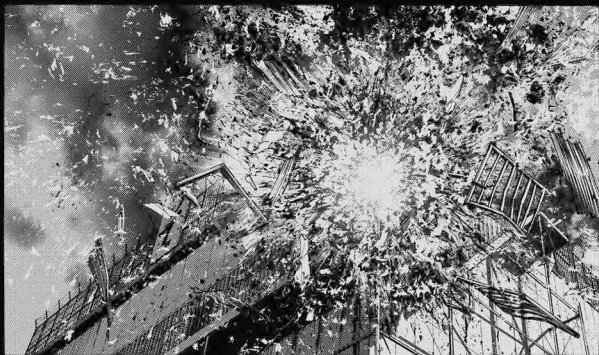
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FIRE!

SEKI!



Chapter
135



"...I'LL
PROTECT
YOU, NO
MATTER
WHAT."

"IF YOU
BELIEVE
ME..."







THE BODY
SHOWED SIGNS
OF STRANGULATION,
AS WELL AS
SEVERAL STAB
WOUNDS TO
THE ABDOMEN.
POLICE ARE
INVESTIGATING IT
AS A HOMICIDE.

THE
POLICE HAVE
IDENTIFIED THE
BODY AS THAT
OF MITSUKO
TANAKA, AGE
41, OF TOKYO.

CTIM MITSUKO TANAKA (41)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



ADDITIONALLY,
MS. TANAKA'S
CAR WAS FOUND
ABANDONED IN
KAGOSHIMA...

ケーキショップ
DOMOON

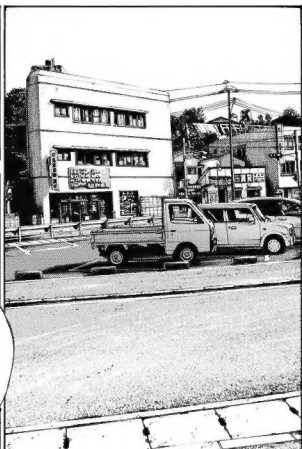
THE
POLICE ARE
INVESTIGATING
FOUL PLAY OR A
POSSIBLE
CONNECTION TO
THE CASE.

...AND HER
TWENTY-YEAR-
OLD DAUGHTER
AIKO IS
MISSING.

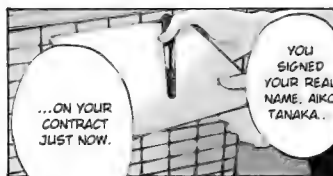


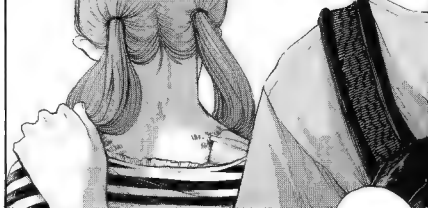
June 30, noon.

"Okay, let's
calm down
and think
about this."









"She's
telling
you to
go away.
Get a
clue,
idiot."



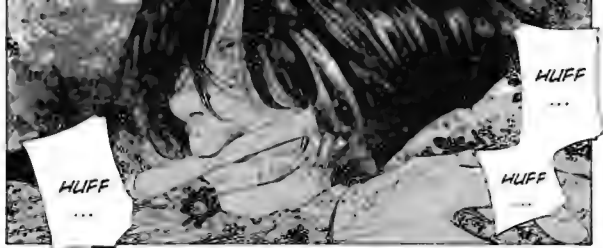
...FOUND
US JOBS
AND A
PLACE TO
STAY.

I...

"...this place
won't work
anymore,
Aiko."

"But..."







"YOU
TELL ME
IT'S FOR
MY OWN
GOOD.."

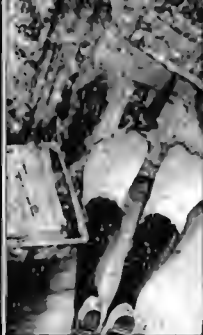
"...BUT
YOU'RE
ALWAYS
JUST
THINKING
ABOUT
YOURSELF."





"BUT YOU
DON'T
WANT TO
BELIEVE
IN ME,
RIGHT?"

"I
WANT TO
BELIEVE
IN YOU,
SENJI."

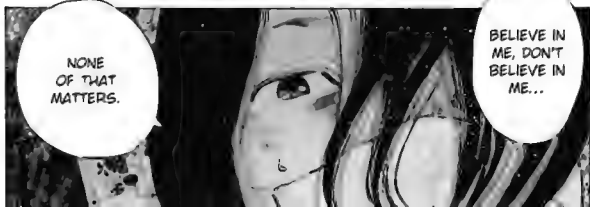


"THE POOP
GOD SAID
I CAN DO
ANYTHING!"

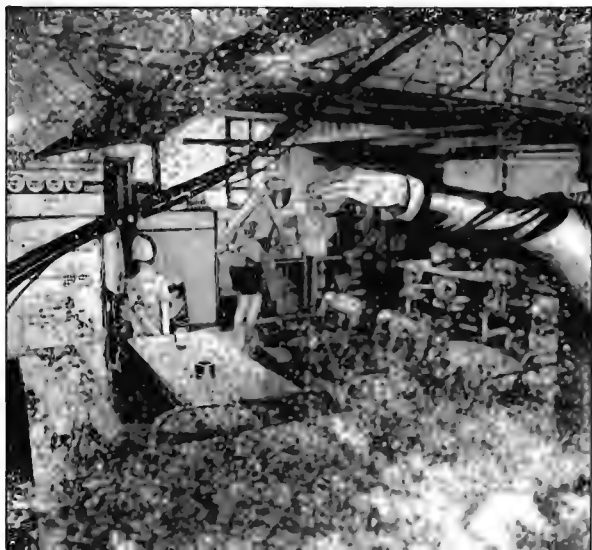


NONE
OF THAT
MATTERS.

BELIEVE IN
ME, DON'T
BELIEVE IN
ME...













LOVERS...

Chapter
136



*MY ACTIONS, MY WORDS
MIGHT JUST BE A NOTE CARVED INTO THE
NEVER-ENDING AKASHIC RECORDS.*



*HOPE...
YES, BUT I STILL HOPE FOR A PERFECTLY HARMONIZED WORLD,
NO MATTER HOW FOOLISH IT MAY SEEM.*



*EVEN IF THIS BODY ROTS AWAY WITHOUT ANYONE
EVER KNOWING, I BELIEVE THAT THE VIBRATIONS OF THE
MAGICAL WARRIORS RESONATE WITH YOU.*



*EVEN IF THIS ERA COMES AROUND AGAIN,
BECAUSE I LIVED IN THIS MOMENT.*



*AND BECAUSE OF THAT,
THEY WERE THE BEST VIBRATIONS.
THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS.*



So happy.



VIBRATIONS!



GOOD



HURRY
WITH
THAT
STRETCH-
ER!

I
GOT
TWO
OVER
HERE!

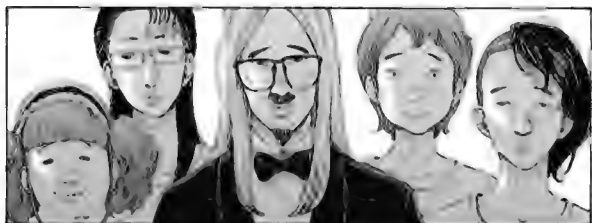


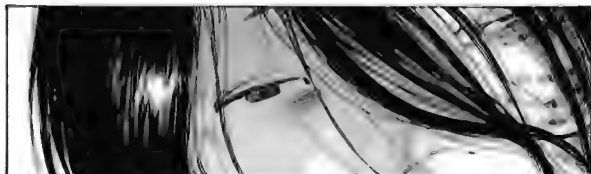
GET,
BACK,
GET
BACK!

HEY...



...HOW
MANY
MORE IN
THERE?

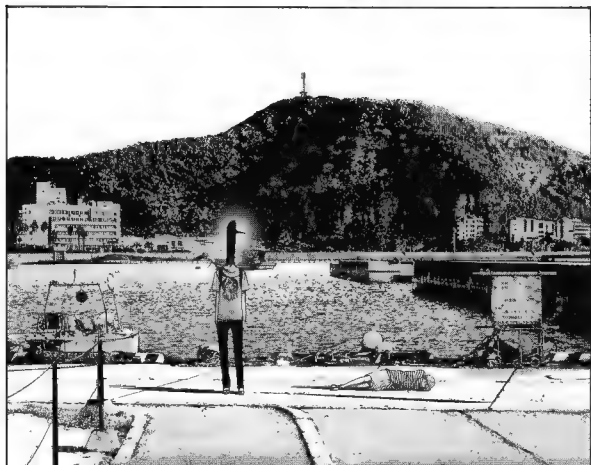






"Let's go to
Osaka after
we get to
Kagoshima City.
It'll be easier to
blend in around
more people."







"Aiko,
you've got
a really high
fever."

THE
MEDICINE...

...ISN'T
WORKING
ANYMORE.



IF
WE DO
THAT...

...I'LL BE
ARRESTED.

"We
should
go to a
hospital."



HEE
HEE...

I
GET
IT...

YOU
WANT
ME TO BE
ARRESTED.





DO YOU
REMEMBER
WHY I
WANTED
TO GO TO
KAGOSHIMA...

...AS
A KID?


IT'S
BECAUSE
I HAVE
AN UNCLE
HERE.



...IS A
DOCTOR.

MY
UNCLE...





mitsuko
tanaka was
found dead
in the
mountains, and
her car was
discovered
abandoned
in kagoshima
prefecture...



and the
kagoshima
police are
looking for
her as a
person of
interest.

her
daughter
and remains
missing



next up,
the kbf
radio
traffic report!



WE'LL BE IN
NISHINOSAWA
SOON, BUT I
NEED TO PEE.

I'M GOING
TO MAKE A
PIT STOP AT A
CONVENIENCE
STORE.

I'LL STOP
THE METER
WHILE I'M
INSIDE.

FARE \$133.10



"I think it's too
dangerous to
count on relatives
at a time like
this."

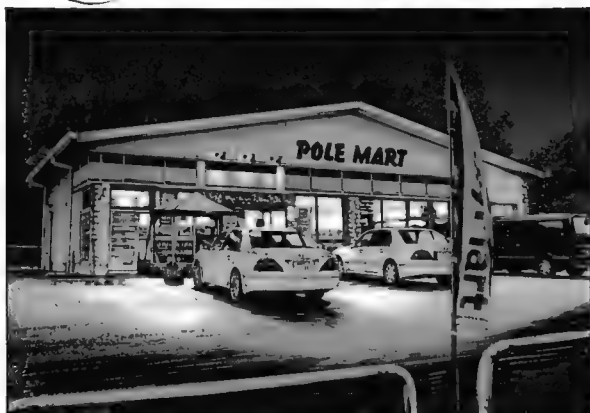
"Aiko,
I don't think
this was
the right
decision."



I CAN'T
THINK OF
ANYTHING
ELSE.

...DO YOU
HAVE A
BETTER IDEA,
PUNPUN?

THEN...



I'M SURE
IF WE
EXPLAIN
WHAT
HAPPENED...

HE'S
A NICE
MAN...

"Do you think
your uncle will
treat someone
who shows up
out of nowhere
covered in stab
wounds without
asking any
questions just
because you're
related?"

"It's precisely
because he's
a nice person
that he's not
our friend."



THE
DRIVER...

IS
SAVING
A TINY
TIME



"Let's get
out of
the cab,
fast."



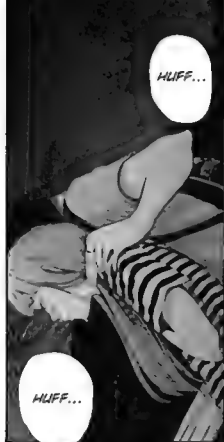
HUH?



"If he's
calling
the
cops..."

"The
driver
might have
recognized
you."





"Hide,
Aiko."



"Let's
get away
from the
road."







PUNPUN



"I saw on
TV once that if
you find a river
and follow it
downstream,
you'll find a
town."²⁸



"Aiko?"



...ARE YOU
REALLY
THINKING?

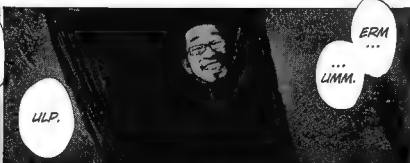
WHAT...



HUFF
...

HUFF
...

HUFF...



ULP.

ERM
...

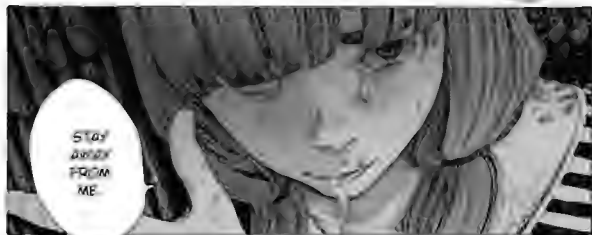
...
LIMM.



"Sorry,
I think I
made you
overdo it.
Let's rest a
little."

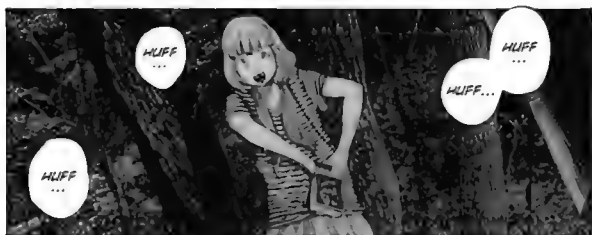


URP!









...what
are you
going to
believe?"

"If you
don't
believe
in me..."

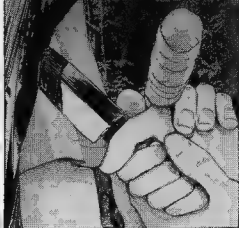


"I
promised
you. I'll
protect you
no matter
what.



"Believe
in me."



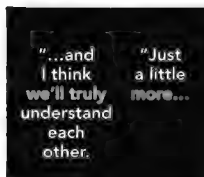
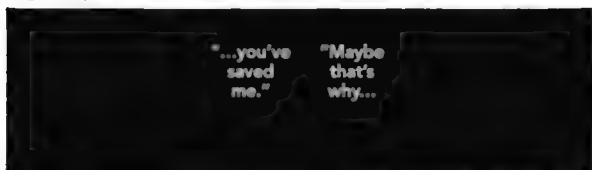


"Seriously,
you really
are a stupid
cow."

"That's
really
good,
Aiko."

"But
that's
good."





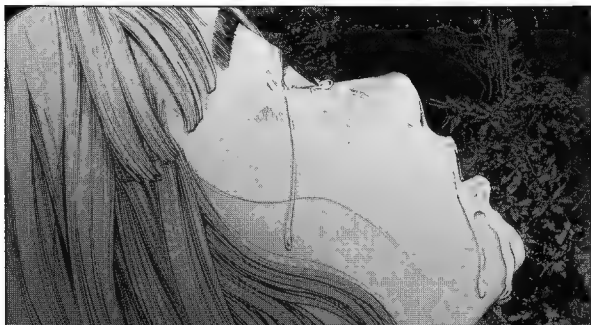


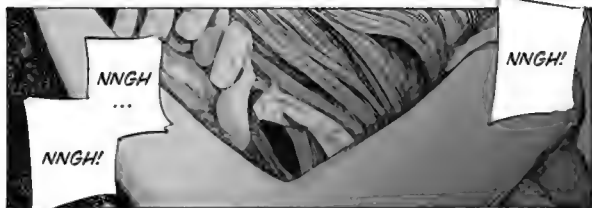
"Aiko,
you
don't
need to
think
any-
more.

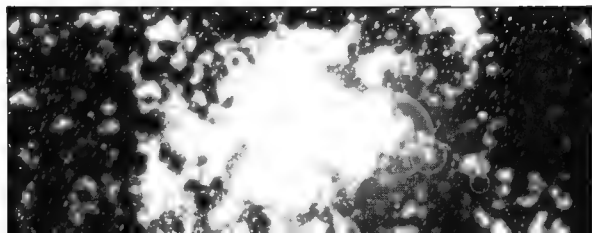


"...because
you were
thinking too
much."

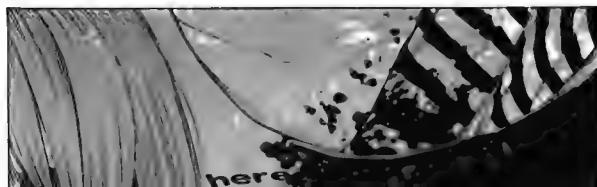
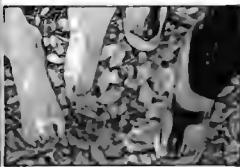
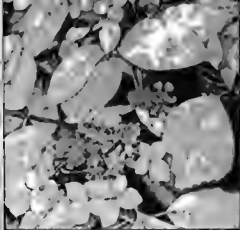
"We didn't
understand
each other..."















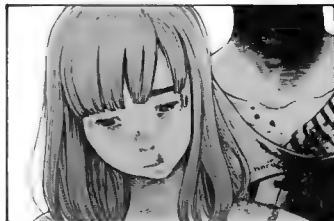
KIND
OF.

"Do you
remember
where the
hospital
is?"

"...he
deserves
what he
gets,
okay?"

"If your
uncle tries
anything
funny..."





To whom it may
concern:
Due to the merging of
municipalities and the
redevelopment of the
village, this hospital
has relocated to the
civic center. Thank
you for your many
years of patronage.
-Orihara Hospital



I
WONDER...



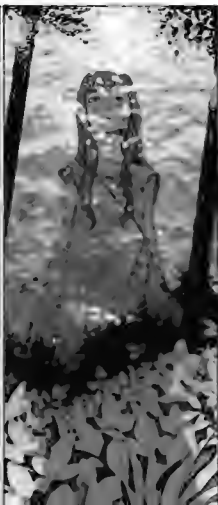
...IF
ANYONE
STILL LIVES
HERE?

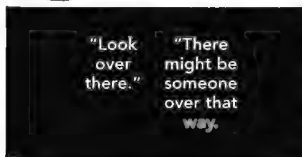


THE
CICADAS
ARE OUT
ALREADY.



THEY
SHOULD
HAVE SPENT
MORE TIME
RELAXING IN
THE DIRT.











NO
MATTER
HOW HARD
WE FIGHT
IT...

...WE
ALWAYS
RETURN TO
WHERE WE'RE
MEANT TO
BE.



BUT
THE PART OF
YOU THAT CAN
SAY THAT KIND
OF THING HAS
GOTTEN TOO
STRONG.

YOU TOLD
ME NOT TO
THINK ANY-
MORE.



...THAN
YOU WERE
HOPING I
WOULD BE.

I'M
MUCH MORE
ORDINARY...



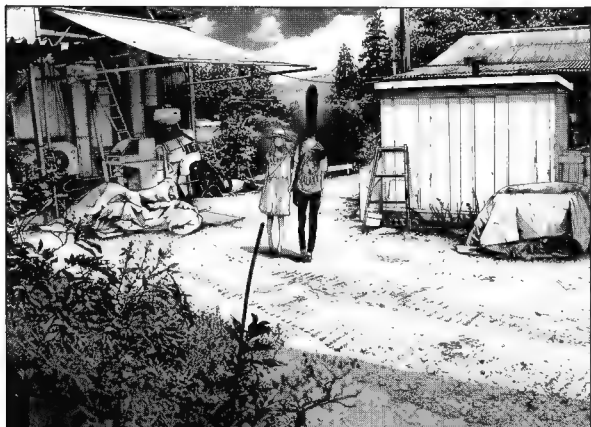
...I'M
GOING TO
LOOK FOR
A POLICE
STATION,
NOT A
HOSPITAL.

AFTER
WE
REST...



I
WONDER
WHY...

...I'M
GETTING
SADDER
AND
SADDER.





"...so you don't need to worry about anything.

"...I'll take all the blame...

"When you turn yourself in...

"It's pretty cool inside."

"Come on in."

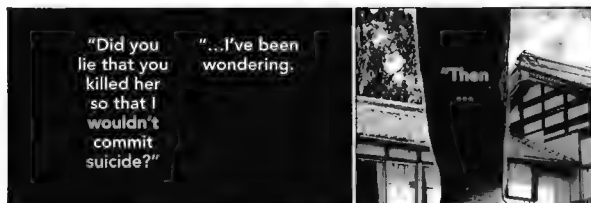
"Even if I'm
arrested, knowing
you're waiting for
me on the outside
will allow me to be
okay by myself for
years or decades."





NO
MORE
LYING,
OKAY?

I'M
GOING TO
TELL THE
TRUTH.



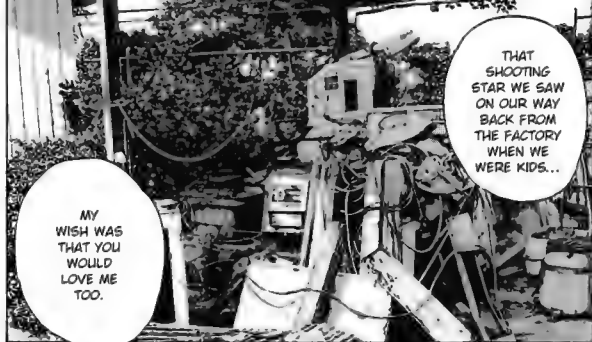
"Did you
lie that you
killed her
so that I
wouldn't
commit
suicide?"

"...I've been
wondering.



THAT
WASN'T
A LIE.





MY
WISH WAS
THAT YOU
WOULD
LOVE ME
TOO.

THAT
SHOOTING
STAR WE SAW
ON OUR WAY
BACK FROM
THE FACTORY
WHEN WE
WERE KIDS...



THAT'S
AMAZING.

IT
CAME
TRUE.

CAN
THERE BE
A GREATER
HAPPINESS?





"HOPES
-RED"



I
WONDER
IF WE'LL
SEE IT
AGAIN?

THAT
HUGE
MILKY WAY
BY THE
FACTORY?



"I'm
sure we
will."



...LET'S
REMEMBER
EACH OTHER
ON TANABATA
DAY, OKAY?

EVEN
IF WE'RE
SEPARATED...

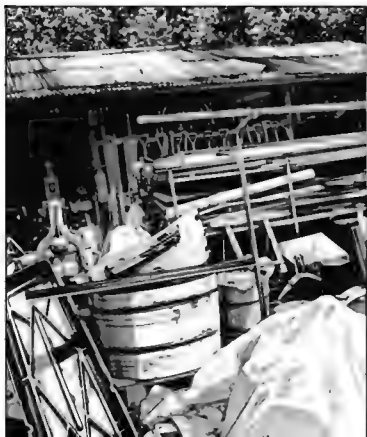
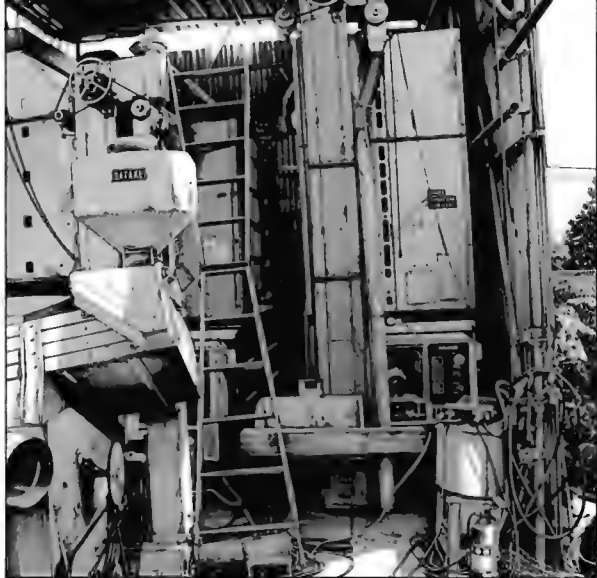


"Okay. I
promise."



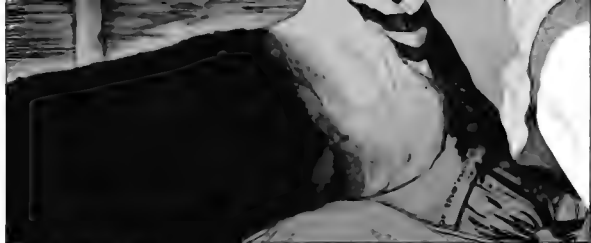


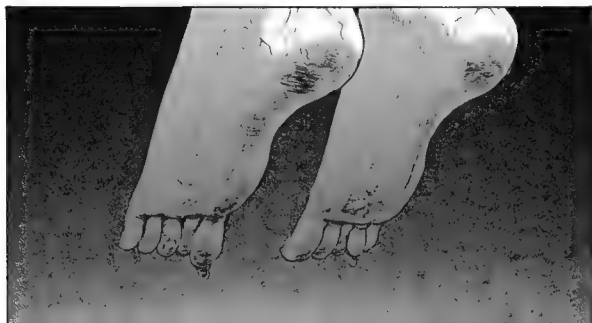




July 1, 2 p.m.





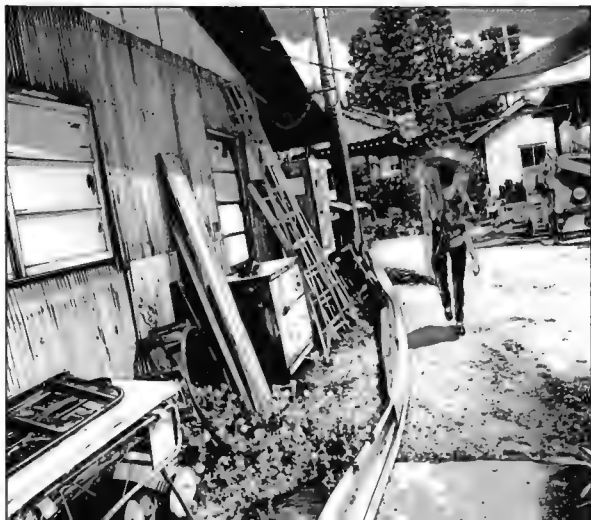
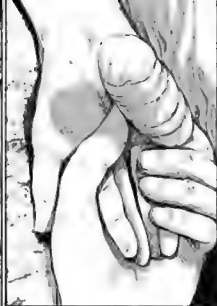














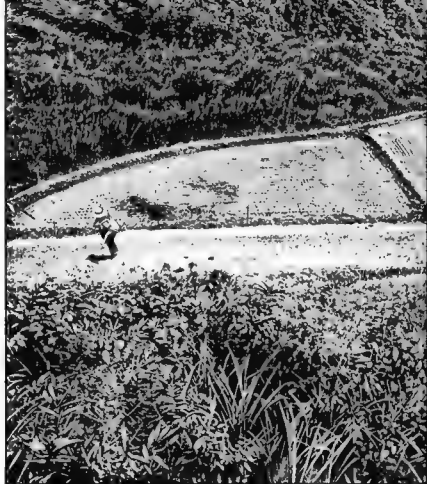


"Aiko,
I was
thinking
about
our life
from
here on
out.

"...but
we can
probably
manage
one that's
nice
enough."

"We
probably
can't have
a cushy
life..."





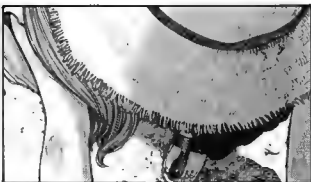
"When I wake up to go to my night shift, you'll just be getting home from work.

"You'll complain a little bit about your coworkers, like you always do. I'll get irritated, but I'll figure if it makes you feel better, I can put up with it.

"...until eventually you'll fall in love with someone a little bit taller and a little bit more cheerful than me and leave.

"I'll be exhausted and become even more useless...

"We'll live like ships passing each other, and there'll be no way we'll be able to save any money, and if either one of us has an accident, we'll be in serious trouble.



"Let's start over.

"Wait, that isn't fun at all.



"What do
I want to
do? What
do I want
to happen
to me?"

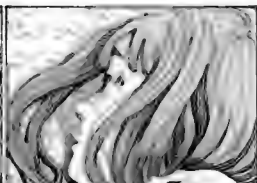
"...I was
thinking.

"Aiko..."



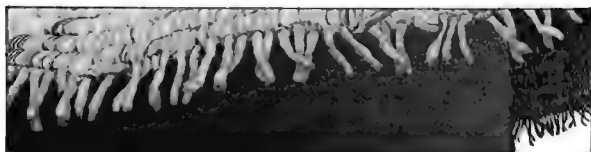
"I
wanted
you to kill
me."











"I
must
be an
idiot."





















"...so
we're
resting."

"We
came
from far
away..."



"...so
we just
started
walking."

"We
wanted
to see
how far
we could

go...



"...I
left her
bag at
the pay
phone
back
there."

"Oh
no..."

"It
would
be mean
to wake
her,
wouldn't
it?"

"She's
exhausted
and finally
fell asleep.

"...keep an
eye out
so no one
disturbs
her?

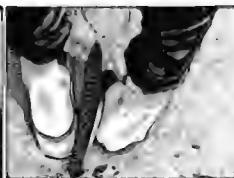
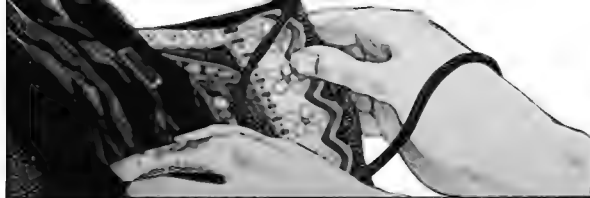
"Would
you
guys...

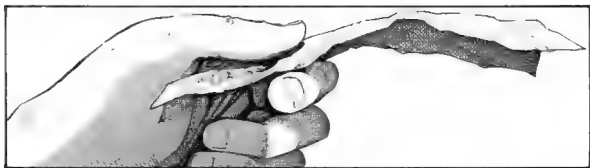


"You're
a nice-
looking
couple."

"Thank
y..."

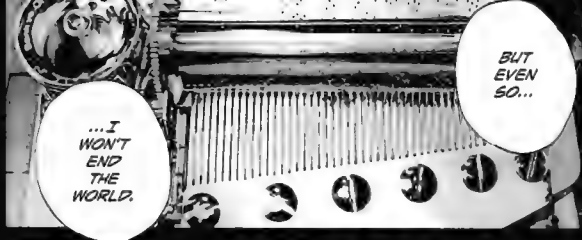








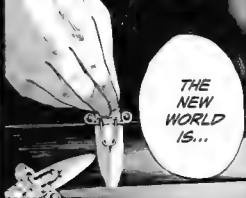






AND
THANK
YOU...

...YOU
LOVABLE
MAGICAL
WARRIORS.



THE
NEW
WORLD
IS...



...A TRIAL
FOR YOU
LOVERS.



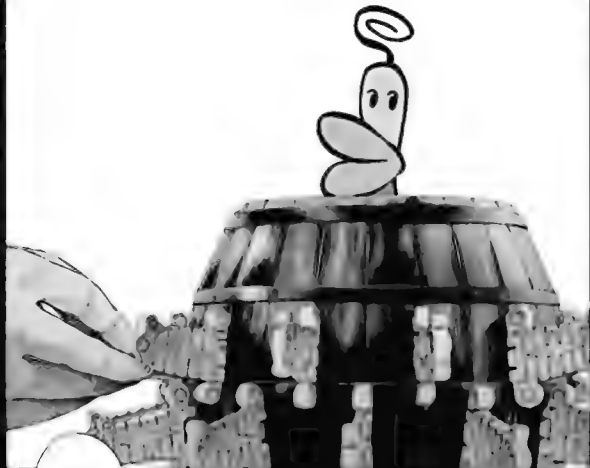
I WANT
TO TELL
YOU WITH
ABSOLUTE
CONVIC-
TION...

OUR GOOD
VIBRATIONS
WILL
DEFINITELY
ETCH
HARMONY
INTO THE
UNIVERSE.



...IS
NOW.

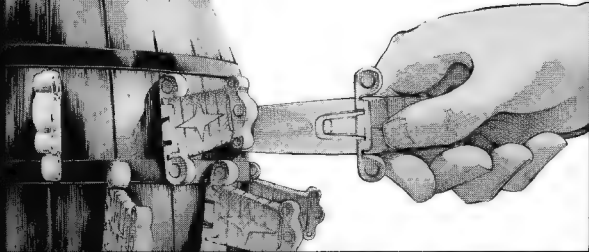
THE
TIME...



THAT
IS TO
SAY..



**WE
WON.**

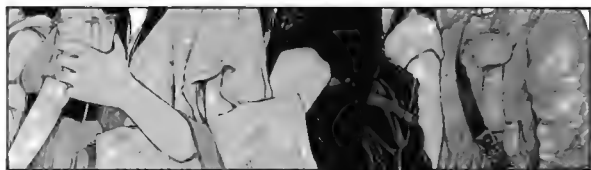










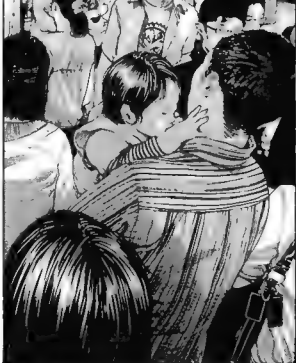




July 7 Tokyo Sunny

A young woman
scurries, apologizing
profusely on her cell
phone for being late.





He thought it was
very inconvenient
to be tied to goals
and pursuits.

But
maybe that's
just about
binding the
him-of-today
to the him-of-
tomorrow.



...very
quiet.

It was
quiet...



...he
thought
someone
had called
out to him.

For a
second...

...so he
should
just
forget
it.

Actually,
he realized
he didn't
even
need a
name any-
more...

But of
course
no one
had.



He felt nostalgic
for the dingy 100-
square-foot room
and the boring,
meaningless city
he would never
return to.

Yo.



...maybe
when he
opened
them
again,
he'd be
back
several
months
ago
when
he was
still a
nobody.

If he
closed
his eyes
for a
moment
and gave
himself
over to
the waves
of people
getting
sucked
through
the
station
barriers...



...was
doing
well
today
too.

He...



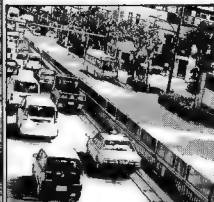






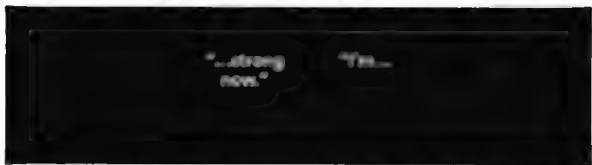
...those
stars,
that
place.

Once
again...











"This
is the
ideal
I was
search-
ing
for.

"I have
nothing
to lose
and
nothing
left to
protect.
No
worries,
no
conflict,
no
kindness.

"...and no
matter how
many times
I rewind, I'd
do the same
thing again.

"I don't
have a
single
regret...

"I
finally
got
it."



I did it!
I really did it.

**Was this
really the
only way?**



**I love how
you're still
having
doubts,
even after
your little
speech.**



(laugh)

"In the end,
it's obvious
what I need
to do."

"I
have no
doubts."

*Let's go back
to that boring,
Ordinary life.*



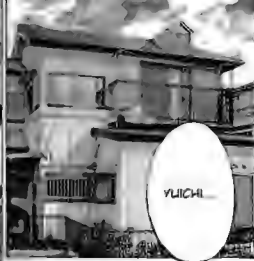
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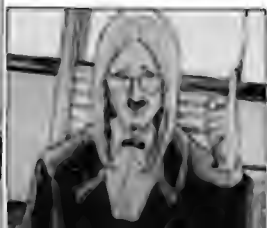
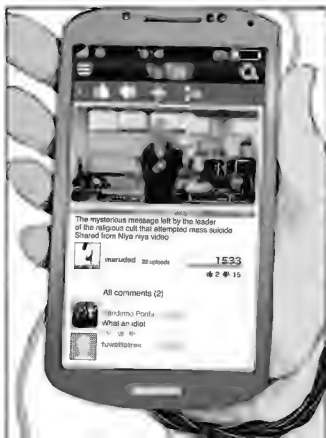


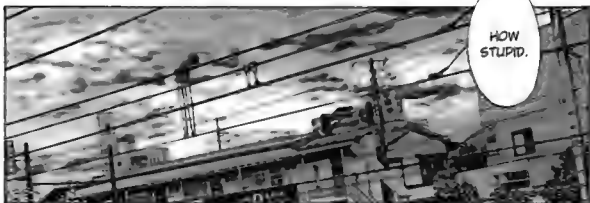
die.

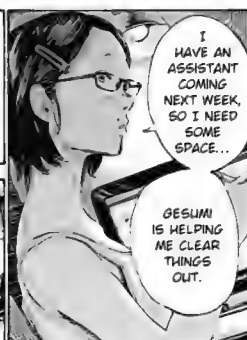
"You
die."

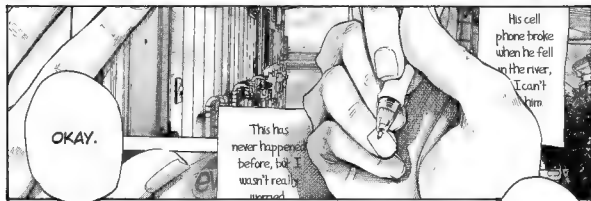














I LOOK UP
TO STRONG,
INDEPENDENT
WOMEN LIKE
YOU, SACHI!

I...



I'M
DESPAIRING
OF MIMURA'S
SHALLOWNESS
IN MAKING
PROMISES HE
CAN'T KEEP.

GAH!

I'M NOT
POUTING.



SHE'S
IN A
MOOD
TODAY,
THIS
ONE.



WELL,
THAT'S
TOTALLY
ANNOYING.

SHE
TRIED
TO MAKE
MIMURA
TEXT HER
THREE
TIMES A
DAY.

SHE'S
SULKING
BECAUSE
MIMURA ISN'T
PAYING
ATTENTION
TO HER.



A LONG
TIME AGO
WHEN I
WAS A
KID...

...I MET THE
SON OF THE
GUY WHO MADE
BENTO FOR THE
FACTORY
WHERE MY MOM
WORKED.



SACHI...

OKAY,
THIS IS
GETTING
A LITTLE
SAPPY
NOW.

...YOU
KEEP YOUR
WORD NO
MATTER
WHAT,
RIGHT?



NO
WAY...

THERE ARE
PROMISES I
CAN'T KEEP.



WELL,
I'M SURE
HE DOESN'T
REMEMBER
ME ANYWAY.

WE MET BY
COINCIDENCE WHEN
I WAS IN MIDDLE
SCHOOL, BUT MY
SELF-CONSCIOUS-
NESS AND LACK OF
SELF-ESTEEM GOT
IN THE WAY AND I
COULDN'T TALK
TO HIM...

BUT I
NEVER
DID.

I
PROMISED
WHEN I
FINISHED
MY MANGA
I'D SHOW IT
TO HIM...



NOT
REALLY.

BESIDES, I
MOVED ON
AGES AGO.

WOULDN'T
IT BE GREAT
IF THAT BOY
IS READING
YOUR MANGA
SOMEWHERE
NOW, SACHI?



AT LEAST
THAT'S WHAT
I TELL MYSELF,
AND THIS IS
THE RESULT.

TURNING A
COINCIDENCE
INTO A
MIRACLE ALL
COMES DOWN
TO HOW YOU
LIVE YOUR
LIFE...

AND IF
WE MET *NOW*,
THE COINCIDENCE
WOULD BE WASTED
AGAIN IF I
HALF-ASSED
IT...



THAT STARRY
SKY WAS THE
IDEA BEHIND
MILKY WAY.

...I
THOUGHT
I WAS ALL
MYSTERIOUS
AND USED TO
LOOK UP AT
THE NIGHT
SKY THERE.

I MISS
THAT
FACTORY.
WHEN I
WAS IN MY
TEENS...



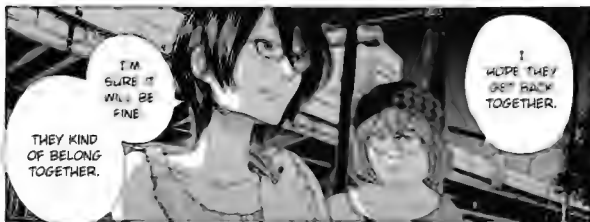
I DON'T
WANT
ANYTHING
SPARKLY
LIKE THAT.

IT'S
TANABATA
TODAY! WILL
YOU HAVE A
MIRACULOUS
REUNION WITH
THAT BOY?

THAT'S
AMAZING!
WHAT A
COINCIDENCE...









DON'T
PUSH SO
HARD.

YOU
TAKE
ON TOO
MUCH

HMM?



I KEEP
THINKING
YOU'RE GOING
TO LOSE IT.
IT'S SCARY
JUST
WATCHING
YOU.

YOU'RE GOING
TO HAVE A KID
NEXT YEAR. YOU
SHOULD LEARN
TO BALANCE
THINGS...



SORRY.

I'LL
KEEP
THAT IN
MIND.



IT NEVER
ENDS WELL
WHEN I
RELY ON
SOMEONE
ELSE.

THAT'S
JUST MY
PERSONAL-
ITY.



...BUT DON'T
FORGET THAT
I GET SUCKED
INTO YOUR
DRAMA OUT OF
PURE KINDNESS.
AND THAT'S A
BIG PAIN IN
MY ASS.

IT'S
YOUR OWN
BUSINESS
IF YOU FEEL
OVER.






ABOUT
THAT
PAINTING...

I'VE NEVER
ACTUALLY
SEEN THE
MILKY WAY.

IN THE
SUBURBS, THE
BEST YOU CAN
HOPE FOR IS
A THIRD
MAGNITUDE
STAR.

EVERYTHING
IN THAT
PAINTING IS
A GREAT BIG
LIE.



...EVEN WHEN
I COULDN'T,
BECAUSE I
BELIEVED THAT
SOMETIMES
MY ONLY HOPE
WAS FOR IT
TO BE OUT
THERE.

WHEN
I WAS
YOUNGER,
I'D SWEAR
I COULD
SEE
THINGS...



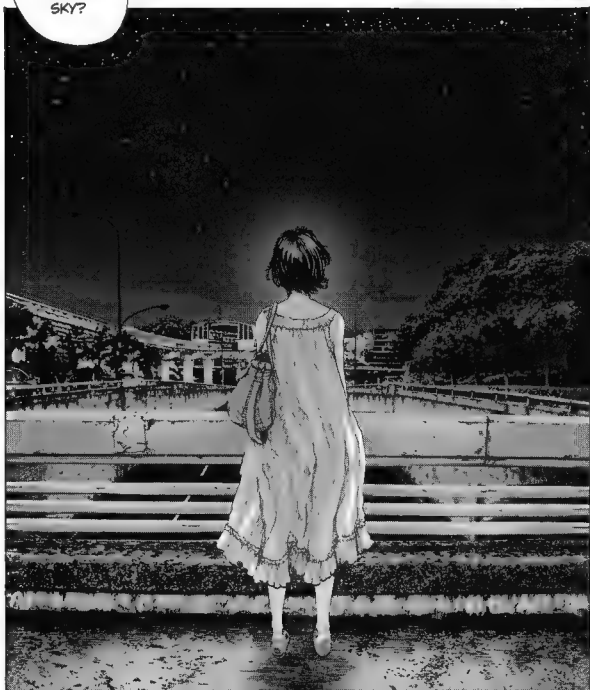
BUT IN
REALITY, I
DON'T KNOW
WHERE I'M
HEADED, AND
I'M SUPER
NERVOUS.

I FEEL
LIKE I'VE
TAKEN A STEP
FORWARD
NOW BY
DISCARDING
THAT PAST.



I
WONDER
WHAT
KIND OF
FUTURE...

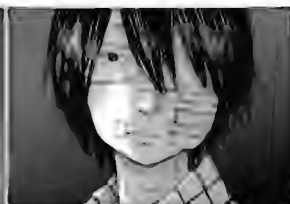
...I USED TO
DREAM ABOUT,
LOOKING AT
THE NIGHT
SKY?















I'VE BEEN
HAVING NIGHTLY
BATTLES WITH
A TURTLE
DRESSED AS A
NINJA HIDING IN
THE SEWERS...

WELL...

YO
GESUMI...

SORRY,
I'VE BEEN
KIND OF
BUSY
LATELY.



HEY, WHY
ARE YOU
CRYING?!

WE'VE GOT
A GREAT
RELATIONSHIP.
DON'T MAKE ME
SAY ANYTHING
EMBARRASSING.

I'M A
KYUSHU
MAN...

DON'T
QUIBBLE,
AND JUST
TRUST ME.



WHAT
..?

WHAT?!
DON'T
COME
OVER?

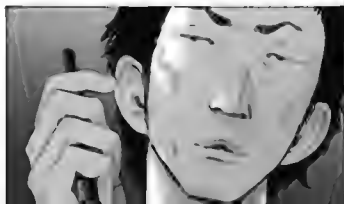
YOU'RE
TOO WITTY. I
HAVE NO IDEA
WHAT YOU'RE
SAYING.



YEAH,
SORRY
...

I WAS
REALLY
BORN AND
RAISED IN
KANAGAWA

I'M GOING
TO COME
OVER THERE
RIGHT NOW.





THAT'S
AMAZING.

WOW.



I'VE
MADE
UP MY
MIND...

I'M COMING
TO GET YOU
RIGHT NOW.

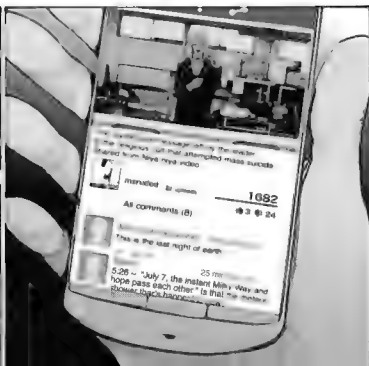


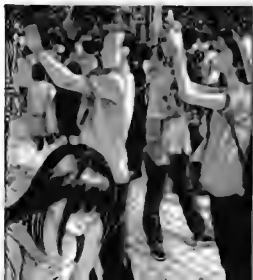
BECAUSE

...I...











...how easy
it would be if
he could just
burn out in a
second and
disappear.

Punpun
thought...



...the
stars
shot
by.

...after
another...

One...



He
was just
thoroughly
exhausted.

He
wasn't
sad.

He
wasn't
happy.



That's what
Punpun was
thinking.

...Punpun
didn't have to
worry about
tomorrow and
could finally,
deeply sleep...

By
closing his
remaining
eye...

There
is no
God,
no
Aiko...



Goodnight...



PUNPUN.



PERHAPS
IT'S
SELFISH-
NESS ON
MY PART.

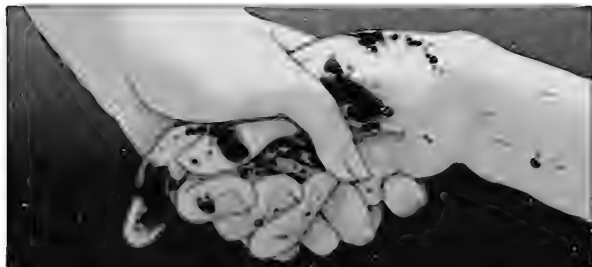
I
COULD
NEVER
ALLOW
THAT.



GET
UP.

I WILL
NEVER
ALLOW YOU
TO RUN
AWAY FROM
ME AGAIN.

I THINK AS
LONG AS
PUNPIN IS
HURTING,
I MUST BE
STRONGER.

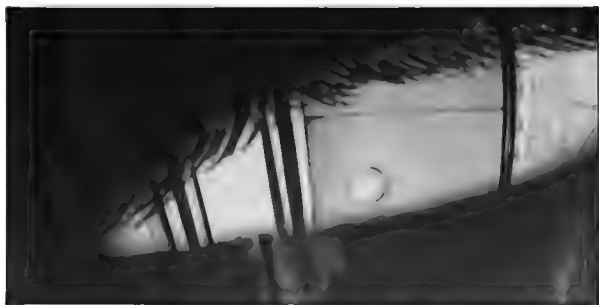




...YOU'RE
ALL MINE
NOW.













I HAD TOO MUCH TIME ON MY HANDS, SO I STARTED COMING UP WITH IDEAS FOR MY NEXT MANGA.

DO YOU WANT TO SEE?



POO SILLY?

every day

Do your best

THIS IS THE MAIN CHARACTER

WHAT DO YOU THINK?



I'M KIDDING. IF I DID SOMETHING LIKE THIS, MY EDITOR WOULD BE APPALLED...

THAT'S MIMURA'S DOODLE.



I'M GOING
TO CREATE
MANGA THAT
SELLS, EVEN IF
IT'S LOWBROW
ESCAPISM FROM
THE HELL OF
CONSCIOUS-

BUT I DO
NEED TO
STOP
THINKING
ABOUT
MY NEXT
STORY.
NOW
THAT I'VE
STARTED THIS,
I REALLY
CAN'T STOP.



I
LEAVE
NOW

AS
IF...

SORRY,
BUT I WAS
GOING TO
BE WITH
SOMEONE
WHO'S
HAPPENING
NOW.

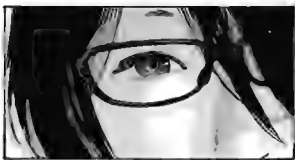


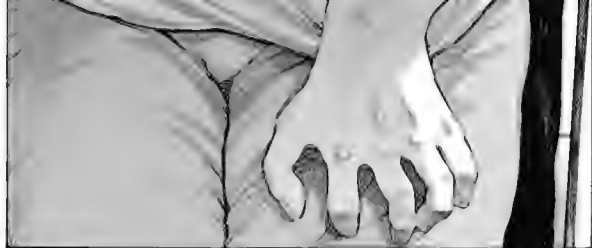
I
LEAVE
NOW

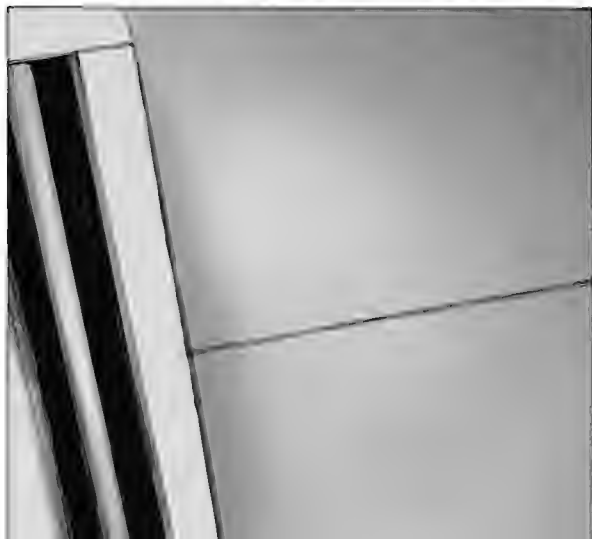


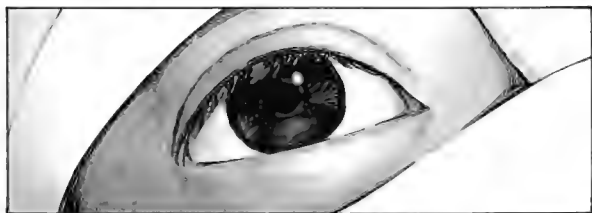






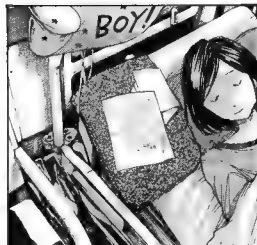














BIRTH CERTIFICATE

NAME	Scott Overton		SEX	MALE	WEIGHT	5.0
DATE OF BIRTH	YEAR	1993	MONTH	01	DAY	10
	BIRTH LENGTH					20.0
PLACE OF BIRTH	PLACE					Marble City, Tex
	NAME OF FACILITY					Marble County Hospital
HEIGHT AND WEIGHT	HEIGHT		WEIGHT		ON	
	1.63		46.0		ON	
MOTHER'S NAME	MOTHER'S NAME					Scott Overton
	MOTHER'S NAME					Scott Overton

NUMBER OF CHILDREN BORN TO MOTHER: 1

WHEN ISSUED BY STATE OR TERRITORY: (FOLLOWED AFTER YEAR IS OF REGISTRATION)

ISSUED THIS THE 10TH DAY OF JANUARY 1993







GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

Part Thirteen

INIO ASANO







IT'S
BEEN A
WHILE



...AIKO.



I HAVE
LOTS TO
TELL YOU
AGAIN THIS
YEAR.



MY
PROBATION
IS OVER,
AND LAST
MONTH...

...I STARTED
WORKING FOR
A REAL ESTATE
COMPANY THAT
MR. SHISHIDO
REFERRED
ME TO.

IT'S
TOTALLY
BASIC...

...BUT I'M
PLANNING
TO WORK
HARD.



MY
FRIEND
THE MANGA
AUTHOR IS
HAPPY...

...THAT THE
NEW SERIES
I'VE BEEN
HELPING WITH
IS GOING
TO BE A
BOOK.

I HEAR
MIMURA IS
GETTING
MARRIED
NEXT YEAR.

IT'S
GOING
WELL, FOR
ME AND
EVERYBODY
ELSE.



I'M
MOVING
FORWARD

IT
TURNS
OUT IT'S
NOT SO
HARD



DON'T
BE
ARR-
GANT

OR
GREEDY

KEEP
YOUR HEAD
DOWN
AND WORK
HARD

AND
MAY BE BE
A LITTLE
USEFUL TO
SOMEONE
ELSE



I HAVE
TOMORROW
OFF, SO
MAYBE I'LL
GO SOME-
WHERE.

WHEN
THE
PERSON
IN FRONT
OF ME IS
SMILING
...

...I
FEEL
VERY
CONTENT.

IF I
HAVE A
PROBLEM,
IT'S THAT
MY FRIEND'S
DAUGHTER
...



...HAS
BECOME
ATTACHED
TO ME
AND IS
CONVINCED
I'M HER
FATHER.



OF COURSE
I THINK IT'S
BEST IF SHE
HAS A
FATHER IN
HER LIFE...

...BUT I'M
PRETTY
SURE IT'S
NOT ME.



I
WANT
TO BE
ALONE.

THAT'S MY
ONLY SELF-
INDULGENCE.



IF
I DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
THINGS
AND STAY
FREE...

...I
NATURALLY
MOVE
FORWARD
WHEN
THE WIND
BLOWS.

IT'S
VERY
EASY...

...ALTHOUGH
IT'S LIKE
LIVING AS
A GHOST.



I
DON'T
REALLY
CARE.

WHERE
AM I
HEADED?



...AND
FADE FROM
PEOPLE'S
MEMORIES,
I THINK
THAT WOULD
BE GOOD.

BUT ONE
DAY, IF I
DISAPPEAR
ANONY-
MOUSLY,
LIKE A
BUBBLE...



...AND WHEN
I TRY TO PUT
THOSE EMOTIONS
INTO WORDS,
IT COMES OUT
CHOPPY AND
VAGUE...

...ON THE
MONTHS
I SPENT
WITH YOU,
OR ON MY
CHILD-
HOOD...

THERE
ARE TIMES
WHEN I
NEED TO
LOOK
BACK...



IT FEELS
LIKE I'M
EXPOSING
MYSELF TO
RIDICULE,
AND I DON'T LIKE
IT...

...AND
MAKES
ME SO
ASHAMED.



...SO I PLAN
TO SEE IT
THROUGH TO
THE END.

...BUT THIS
IS THE ONLY
ROLE THAT'S
BEEN GIVEN
TO ME...



AIKO...

...YOU
KNOW
WHAT I
THINK?



THAT
MILKY
WAY WE
SAW WHEN
WE WERE
KIDS—

DID WE
REALLY
SEE IT?

I THINK
MAYBE IT
WAS JUST
A FALSE
MEMORY...

...WE
GLORIFIED.



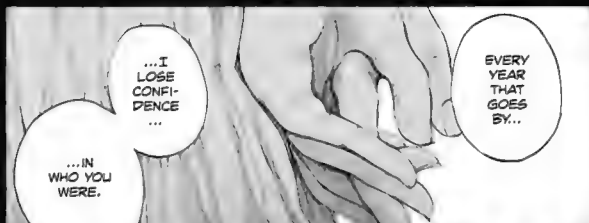
AIKO

WAS
THAT
YOUR
VOICE?

YOUR
VOICE IS A
BIT DISTANT
THESE
DAYS.



WAS
THAT
REALLY
YOUR
FACE?



"IF YOU
BETRAY
ME AGAIN...
NEXT TIME
I'LL KILL
YOU."





"YOU DON'T
LIE, RIGHT,
PUNPUN?"





I'M
SORRY.

I
AM A
LIAR.



A black and white manga-style illustration of a young girl with long, dark hair and bangs. She has a serious, slightly sad expression, looking directly at the viewer. Her face is pale with some light shading on her cheeks.

I'M
SURE...

A black and white manga-style illustration of the same girl from the waist up. She is looking down with a sad expression. She is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved dress with a bow at the waist.

...I WON'T
SEE THE
MILKY WAY
THIS YEAR
OR NEXT...

...AND
IT WILL
ALSO BE
CLOUDY ON
TANABATA,
FOREVER...



...BUT
THE WORLD
WOULDN'T
CHANGE AND
HUMANITY ISN'T
DONE FOR.

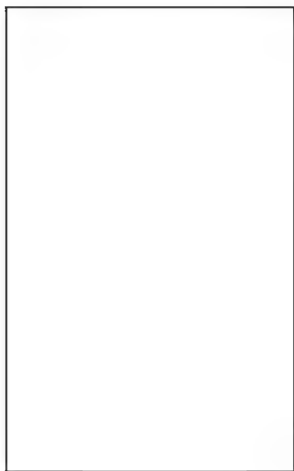
I NEED
TO MOVE
FORWARD.

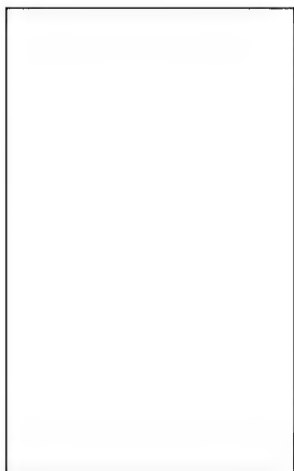


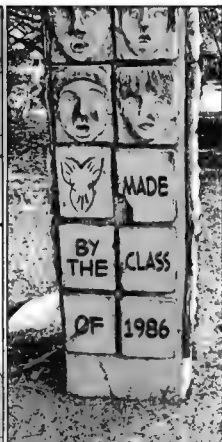
BEEP

















IMAGINE
HOW A TOPIC
LIKE THIS
COULD HURT
A CHILD WHO
HAS TROUBLE
BLENDING IN.

I'D LIKE
YOU TO BE
A BIT MORE
SENSITIVE.

MR.
TAKAHASHI...



...AND WE
DEBATED THE
SUBJECT OF THE
PAPER AT THE
LAST PARENTS'
MEETING, AND
IT HAS THEIR
APPROVAL.

...THE
KIDS IN
MY CLASS
ALL GET
ALONG...



THEN...

...HOW
ABOUT
"MY DREAM
FOR THE
FUTURE"?

.. 休館日



IF YOU
GET COCKY
BECAUSE YOU'RE
POPULAR WITH
THE PARENTS,
YOU'LL REGRET
IT.







MR.
TAKAHASHI
FOCUSES TOO
MUCH ON ONE
THING AND
LETS EVERY-
THING ELSE
BLUR.

...BUT IF
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT FAIR,
I'M NOT SURE
"MY DREAM FOR
THE FUTURE"
REALLY CUTS
IT EITHER.

I GET THAT
HE'S BEEN
SENSITIVE EVER
SINCE HE HAD
THAT PROBLEM
ABOUT BULLYING
WITH THE
PARENTS'
GROUP...



SO WHAT
ARE YOU
MAKING
YOUR CLASS
WRITE
ABOUT?



...SO I
QUESTION
MAKING THEM
THINK ABOUT
THE FUTURE.

BESIDES,
EVERYONE
HAS A
DIFFERENT
HOME
LIFE...

AND YOU...
YOU'RE
WAY TOO
AGREEABLE.



"SOMETHING
THAT
RECENTLY
GAVE ME
COURAGE."

OH
YEAH,
I SEE.



IT'S AN
EXERCISE IN
LEARNING TO
WRITE, SO
THE SUBJECT
DOESN'T
MATTER.

IT
DOESN'T
MATTER.



HEY,
YOU JUST
SNIFFED
AT ME.

NO, I'M IM-
PRESSED.
VERY COOL.



HEY, YOU'RE
CHANGING THE
SUBJECT.

...YOU
PUT ALL
MY TRASH
TOGETHER.
THANK
YOU.

OH...



CAN I
GET RID
OF ALL
THAT?

WHEN I
WAS GOING
THROUGH
YOUR CLOSET,
I FOUND ALL
KINDS OF
THINGS...

THEY
TAKE ME
BACK.

THESE
NOTEBOOKS
FROM HIGH
SCHOOL...





...SO DON'T
THINK YOU CAN
KEEP THEM
ENTERTAINED BY
JUST SMILING
A LOT.





NO
WAY...

YOU CAME,
SHUNTARO!

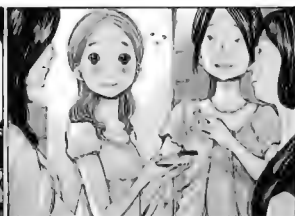
SONO,
SHUNTARO'S
HERE.



OH...

KOMATSU,
YOU'VE
OVERDONE
IT ON THE
HEIGHT THING,
HAVEN'T
YOU?

I
PASSED
SIX FEET
IN HIGH
SCHOOL.



HEY,
HARUMIN...

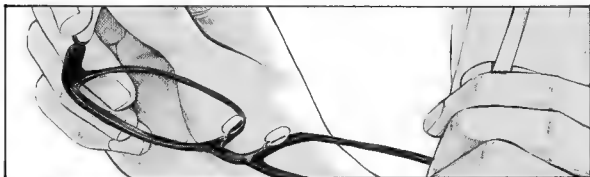
IT'S
BEEN
A LONG
TIME.















*I'M SURE
THIS IS
"NORMAL."*



*MY LIFE IS
SO EASY
I'M KIND
OF LOSING
MY MIND.*



I HAD THE
URGE TO KILL
SOMEONE,
SO I WAS
WANDERING
AROUND IN A
TOWN FULL OF
SHOPPERS...

TANABATA
THIS YEAR
IS SUNNY
IN THE
MIDST OF
THE RAINY
SEASON.



AND
THEN I
SAW HIM
AGAIN.



...BUT AS
SOON AS
OUR EYES
MET, I
KNEW IT
WAS HIM.

HE WAS
AN ADULT
NOW...



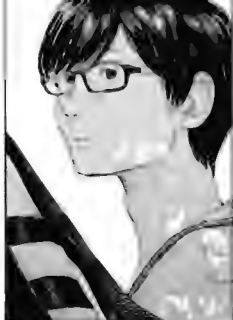
IT WAS
THE SAME
FOR HIM
TOO.



AN
AWKWARD,
DISJOINTED
CONVERSA-
TION
FOLLOWED.



IT'S NO
WONDER.
I'M NOT THE
PERSON HE
KNEW BACK
THEN, AND I'M
SURE HE FELT
THE SAME...



WE BOTH
ACKNOWLEDG-
ED IT
WAS TIME
TO LEAVE.

AND
WHEN THE
CONVER-
SATION
TURNED
TO THE
WEATHER



...HE SAID,
"I HAVE
SOMETHING
I'VE BEEN
WANTING TO
TELL YOU
FOR A LONG
TIME.

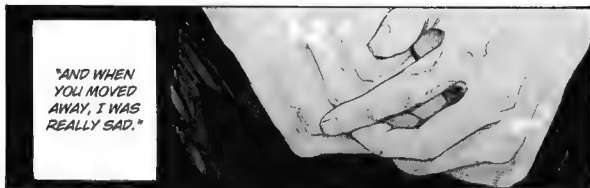
AFTER
A BRIEF
SILENCE

"YOU KNOW
THE PORN
WATCHERS' CLUB?
WE SHOULD'VE
CALLED IT
THE PORN
WANTERS CLUB.
IT WOULD'VE
BEEN MORE
ACCURATE."





AS I THOUGHT
TO MYSELF,
"THAT'S WHAT
YOU WORRIED
ABOUT ALL
THESE YEARS?"
HE CONTINUED...



"AND WHEN
YOU MOVED
AWAY, I WAS
REALLY SAD."





I
FELT
THE
SAME
WAY.

BUT WE
COULDN'T
HAVE DONE
ANYTHING
ABOUT IT
BACK THEN.



HEEEY.





DON'T GO
WANDERING
OFF, IDIOT.



COME
ON, WE'RE
GOING.

EVERYBODY
WAS
LOOKING
FOR YOU.



WHY?

FRIEND
FROM
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL?



I KNOW
YOU'RE THE
ONE WHO GOT
DUMPED IN THE
FIFTH GRADE
BY A GIRL WHO
WENT OUT WITH
YOU FOR HALF A
DAY, RIGHT?

UH...



I DIDN'T
FEEL IT
NECESSARY
TO ASK HIM
ABOUT THE
SCAR ON HIS
LEFT EYE
EITHER.



AS WE
PARTED,
I SAID,
"YOU GOT
MARRIED..."

HIS
EXPRESSION
DENIED IT,
AND I DIDN'T
PURSUE IT ANY
FURTHER.



BECAUSE
HE AND
I...



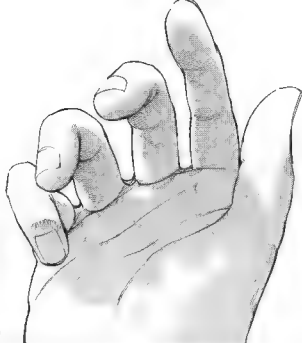








...THINKING IN
THE BACK OF
MY MIND THAT
WE WOULD
NEVER SEE
EACH OTHER
AGAIN.



I SAID,
"SEE YOU
LATER..."



I
COULDN'T
REMEMBER
HIS NAME.





WHAT
ARE YOU
REALLY
THINKING?

YOU KNOW,
SHUNTARO

...YOU'VE
GOT THESE
PAUSES
WHEN YOU
TALK.



DOES
THAT
MEAN

...YOU'RE
PREPARED TO
ACCEPT WHO I
REALLY AM?

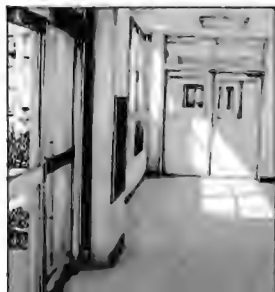


I...

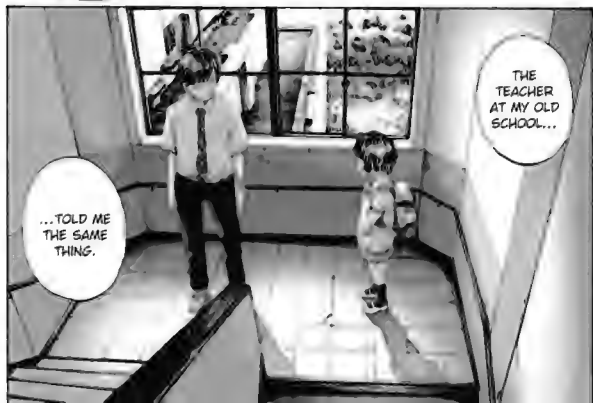


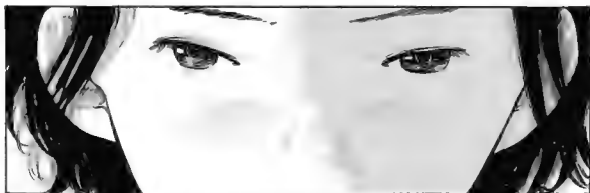










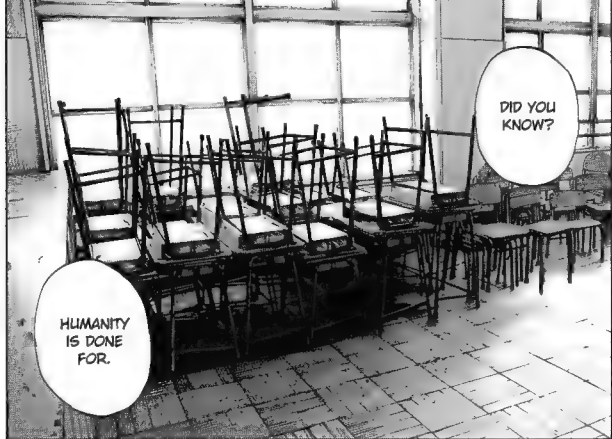












GOODNIGHT PUNPUN INIO ASANO

Part. Thirteen

BACKGROUND ASSISTANTS: Satsuki Sato
Hiro Kashiwaba
Ran Atsumori
Yuki Toribuchi

COOPERATION: Kumatsuto
Hisashi Saito
Yasumasa Iwama
Shunji Fujikawa
Yu Uehara
Kihachiro Kume
Haruka Oikawa
Ayako Maru





INIO ASANO, a bona fide earthling, was born in Ibaraki, Japan, in 1980. In 2001, his short story "Uchu kara Konnichiwa" (Hello from Outer Space) won the first Sunday GX Rookie Prize. Later, GX published his series *Subarashi Sekai*, available in English from VIZ Media as *What a Wonderful World!* His other works include *Hikari no Machi* (City of Light), *Nijigahara Holograph* and *Umibe no Onna no Ko* (A Girl on the Shore), as well as *solanin*, also available from VIZ Media.



GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

Volume 7

VIZ Signature Edition

Story and Art by INIO ASANO

OYASUMI PUNPUN Vol. 13

by Inio ASANO

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Contains violence and sexual situations.

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